

INITIAL STUDY OF THE THOMPSON CREEK TRAIL MASTER PLAN

Project Sponsor:

CITY OF SAN JOSE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY FACILITIES ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

CEQA Lead Agency:

CITY OF SAN JOSE
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, BUILDING AND
CODE ENFORCEMENT

DECEMBER 17, 2004

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY

THOMPSON CREEK TRAIL MASTER PLAN

**A PROJECT INVOLVING THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND
PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF A MULTI-USE TRAIL ALONG THE THOMPSON
CREEK CORRIDOR IN THE EVERGREEN DISTRICT OF
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA**

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report is an environmental Initial Study (IS) prepared in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Its purpose is to determine whether implementation of the proposed *Thompson Creek Trail Master Plan* may have potentially significant adverse effects on the environment. The evaluation of potential environmental impacts follows the format suggested in the CEQA Guidelines (October 1998) with supporting analysis and references provided in response to the applicable questions. In areas where potential environmental impacts are identified, this Initial Study suggests mitigation measures that can be incorporated into the project approval.

The proposed *Master Plan* calls for development of a multi-use trail along approximately 7 miles of the Thompson Creek corridor between Lake Cunningham Park and Heartland Way, a street near the south city limits. The proposed trail would be constructed over a number of years, with interim alignments providing connectivity where land availability or funding constraints prevent development of the trail segments along the preferred alignments.

The project is sponsored the City of San Jose Department of Public Works, City Facilities Architectural Services Division. The City of San Jose Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement is the Lead Agency for environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Decision makers in the City of San Jose, and decision makers in responsible agencies with jurisdiction over one or more aspects of the project, will consider the information in the IS to determine whether the project, with mitigation, will support a Negative Declaration.

Once the appropriate CEQA document, such as a Mitigated Negative Declaration, has been adopted and the Thompson Creek Trail Master Plan has been approved, the City would begin implementation of the project. Implementation could immediately involve right-of-way protection along the trail corridor, including the acquisition of land and easements, as well as the initiation of detailed design work for one or more of the Trail segments.

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. PROJECT TITLE

The project addressed in this Initial Study is the *Thompson Creek Trail Master Plan*.

B. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Thompson Creek Trail corridor is located in the Evergreen district of eastern San José. It is approximately 7 miles long and would parallel Thompson Creek and a portion of Lower Silver Creek between Lake Cunningham Park in the north and San Felipe Road/Heartland Way in the south. Figure 1 is a topographic map showing the location of the corridor while Figure 2 shows the project location on a street map.

The proposed multi-use trail would generally follow the northward flowing Thompson Creek as it meanders through a rural landscape of low-density residential development along San Felipe Road in the south and then through more heavily developed residential neighborhoods before it reaches Lake Cunningham Park. The trail corridor has been divided into four reaches, as noted on Figure 2, as follows:

Reach 1: Lake Cunningham Park to Aborn Road

Reach 2: Aborn Road to Yerba Buena Avenue

Reach 3: Yerba Buena Avenue to Larkspur Canyon Road

Reach 4: Larkspur Canyon Road to Heartland Way

C. LEAD AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS

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E. PROJECT OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

The Thompson Creek Trail Corridor is located on 227 adjoining parcels owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), the City of San Jose, and multiple private landowners. The trail alignment is proposed to be routed on land areas that are currently vacant or are existing City streets.

F. ASSESSORS PARCEL NUMBERS

A list of potentially affected assessors parcels is found in Appendix A. The list covers parcels along every alternative trail segment, so not all parcels would be affected.

G. ZONING DISTRICT AND GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION

The San Jose General Plan designations along the 7-mile trail corridor include Very Low Density Residential, Low Density Residential, Medium Low Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, Medium High Density Residential, Neighborhood/Community Commercial, Public/Quasi-Public, and Non-Urban Hillside. Zoning Districts along the trail corridor include R-1-1, R-1-5, R-1-8, RM (PD), CN, CP (PD), A, and A (PD).